

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

1. Claim 3 has been amended to correct a typographical error.
2. Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 and 8-11 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '331 in view of the Ashbrook patent.

Claim 1 has been amended to state explicitly that which was implicit: that the reverse weir prevents gas flow across from one chamber to the other, except underneath the reverse weir. Please see paragraph [0057] of the specification. The gas stream builds up in the inlet chamber, driving liquid down below the reverse weir to the outlet chamber. This can only happen of course if the reverse weir is closed at the top of the vessel.

Please note that JP '331 reference does not teach the same partition reverse weir. As may be seen in Figures 1 and 2 of JP '221, incoming gas enters chamber 15, is washed by spray from nozzles 7 (countercurrent contact), passes up and over partition 17, and is washed by nozzles 12 (concurrent contact).

JP '331 does not teach a reverse weir as contemplated in the present invention. Therefore, the combination of JP '331 and Ashbrook does not teach all the elements of claims 1-5 and 8-11. Accordingly, claim 1 and all those claims depending from claim 1 are novel and inventive. Allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is

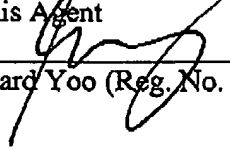
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in condition for allowance and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Please address all correspondence to Customer Number 22828.

Dated January 18, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,
Stuart Squires, et al.
By his Agent



Edward Yoo (Reg. No. 41,435)

Attachments:

1. Petition for One Month Extension.
2. Credit Card Payment Form